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Identical letters dated 27 May 2017 addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On 26 May 2017, the war planes of the illegal "international coalition" led by the United States of America bombarded the city of Mayadin, in the south-east of Dayr al-Zawr governorate, killing 35 civilians, most of whom were women and children, and injuring dozens more.

This recent attack is one of a series of acts of aggression committed by the illegal "international coalition" against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic. The pretext for such actions is to fight terrorism, but their effect is merely to spread chaos and destruction. Extremist terrorist groups stand to gain, none more so than the terrorist organizations Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the Nusrah Front. The actions of the "coalition" flagrantly contravene the resolutions of the Security Council, international law and international humanitarian law. Once again, we wish to highlight the coalition's hostile nature and its collusion with parties whose sole aim is to kill innocent Syrian civilians. The "coalition" has admitted to killing hundreds of innocent Syrian civilians over the last few months, and its pretexts have been shown up as spurious.

The Syrian Arab Republic condemns the attacks carried out by the "international coalition", which has targeted civilians, caused huge material losses and wreaked appalling destruction on the infrastructure, on the country's economic, service, oil and gas facilities, and on public and private property in the Syrian Arab Republic. It calls on the Security Council to enforce its resolutions safeguarding the territorial integrity and the people of the Syrian Arab Republic, and to bring an end to the acts of aggression carried out by the illegal "international coalition". Those actions have coincided with attacks perpetrated by ISIL and the Nusrah Front against innocent civilians. The "coalition" has also openly attacked the Syrian Army, which has been fighting terrorism alongside supporting forces throughout the country.

Certain Western permanent members have monopolized the working methods of the Security Council. Their diversion and guile have been the primary reasons why the crisis in Syria has dragged on.

The policies of these countries and their regional proxies, such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey, are what sparked the crisis in Syria. They constitute support for armed terrorist groups whose reach has now spread to other parts of the world; the recent terrorist attacks in Manchester, in the United Kingdom, were a case in point.

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The Syrian Arab Republic once again stresses that the activities of the illegal "coalition" led by the United States of America must come to an end, and that the counter-terrorism resolutions of the Security Council, including resolution 2253 (2015), must be implemented.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i.